

NEW YORK LETTER

New York, July 1.—“The high cost of living is not all due to advances in prices of food and other necessities,” says a market man on upper Broadway. “That’s partly it, and it is true that prices have advanced enormously. But the fact remains that my customers could feed themselves for much less than it costs them, and live just as well, if they. only knew how.

“See that man over there?” He pointed to a small, poorly-dressed man, with a basket. “He has just bought two pounds of codfish, at 16 cents a pound. Right on the same counter are porgies, at 8 cents a pound. There’s no finer-tasting fish to be had, and they are as nourishing. But this man’s wife told him to go to market and buy codfish, and he’s buying codfish. Neither of them thinks of taking the trouble to find out whether they can save money by buying some other fish, and be just as well satisfied.

“Then look at that little girl, at the dairy counter. She’s getting a pound of butter. I know the family. There are seven, altogether, working-people, and they buy about seven pounds of butter a week, at 32 cents a pound. It’s an extravagance, pure and simple. They like butter, and they eat all they want of it, regardless of cost. I come from the old country. We had meat once a week, and we hardly ever saw butter. But I always enjoyed my meals, I had plenty and the people in our village were health-

ier-looking than they are here.

“Look at that woman buying a fancy package of crackers. She’s paying five cents for crackers and five cents for decorated wrapper. There are people who can afford to do that, but she isn’t one of them. That doesn’t make any difference to her; the wrapper is attractive, and she buys.

“Those eggs at 25 cents a dozen are all right. They’re the kind I take home. But women who haven’t as much money to spend on their table as my wife has come in here and say ‘give me half a dozen of those fancy white eggs’—at a fancy price.

“I’m not defending the robbers who have shoved up prices on everything to eat. I’m only saying people could meet the situation a good deal more successfully than they do, if they would take the trouble to find out what they can easily do without, and what is cheapest.”



“I felt silly last night.”

“How was that?”

“I was sleeping under a crazy quilt.”